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Semiconductor Industry Association

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SIA Hails 50th Anniversary of the Integrated Circuit

--Jack Kilby's Nobel Prize winning invention demonstrated on September 12, 1958--

San Jose, CA – September 12, 2008 – “Today marks the 50th anniversary of the first public demonstration of Jack Kilby’s integrated circuit – a critical milestone for an industry that will surpass \$265 billion in sales this year,” said George Scalise, president of the Semiconductor Industry Association.

“Fifty years ago, Jack Kilby was a young engineer working in a Texas Instruments research lab in Dallas, Texas,” Scalise continued. “As a recent hire, Kilby had little accrued vacation time and was working virtually alone through the summer months while most of his colleagues were on vacation. Kilby used the relative quiet of the nearly empty lab to address a problem that had long plagued the electronics industry: how to interconnect the thousands of tiny transistors on virtually every circuit board in every electronic system. Kilby’s solution was simplicity itself. He connected a transistor and other components on a tiny sliver of germanium less than inch in length. He called the device an integrated circuit.

“In the ensuing half century since Kilby’s invention, the integrated circuit has proved to be the single most important driver of increased productivity and economic growth in history,” Scalise continued. “The integrated circuit provides the critical technology for countless electronic devices that enable people everywhere to lead more productive lives.”

Jack Kilby’s contribution was recognized in 2000 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. “Always a modest and generous man, Kilby took the opportunity of receiving his Nobel Prize to recognize the contributions of the late Robert N. Noyce for his invention of the planar integrated circuit in 1959. Our world owes a great debt of gratitude to Jack Kilby for a brilliant invention that has enhanced the standard of living of people everywhere,” Scalise concluded.

About the SIA

The SIA is the leading voice for the semiconductor industry and has represented U.S. semiconductor companies since 1977. Collectively, the chip industry employs a domestic workforce of 216,000 people. More information about the SIA can be found at www.sia-online.org.